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## DOCUMENTS

[Under this head it is proposed to print in each issue a few documents of historical importance, hitherto unprinted. It is intended that the documents shall be printed with verbal and literal exactness, and that an exact statement be made of the present place of deposit of the document and, in the case of archives and libraries, of the volume and page or catalogue number by which the document is designated. Contributions of important documents, thus authenticated, will be welcomed.]

### *I. Diary of Richard Smith in the Continental Congress, 1775-1776.*

THE following pages comprise the first half of a diary kept in 1775 and 1776 by the Hon. Richard Smith, delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress. The diary extends continuously from September 12 to October 1, 1775, and from December 12, 1775, to March 30, 1776. The second half will be printed in the next number of the REVIEW. The original manuscript is in the possession of Mr. Smith's great-grandson, J. F. Coad, Esq., of Charlotte Hall, Md., by whose kindness the REVIEW is permitted to print this daily record of events in Congress during a most interesting and important period.

Richard Smith was born at Burlington, N. J., March 22, 1735, of a Quaker family distinguished in the annals of the colony. He was a younger brother of Samuel Smith, treasurer and secretary of the council and historian of New Jersey. He was bred as a lawyer, and in or about 1762 was chosen recorder of the city of Burlington. For his correspondence with Tobias Smollett in 1763, see the *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. III. Mr. Smith married Elizabeth, daughter of Hon. John Rodman of New Bedford. He was for many years clerk to the House of Representatives in New Jersey. He was appointed a deputy from that State to the first Continental Congress, and on February 14, 1776, the Provincial Congress re-elected him for one year; but he resigned on March 30, for reasons indicated at the conclusion of his diary. His brother Samuel dying in this year, Richard was on October 17 appointed treasurer of the State of New Jersey. He resigned March 7, 1777, and retired to his country seat, called Bramham Hall. With other members of the Smith family he purchased a large tract of land on Otsego Lake, New York, and built there a handsome mansion

called Smith Hall, in which he lived from 1790 to 1799, when he removed to Philadelphia. While on a tour through the Mississippi valley, he died of a fever at Natchez on September 17, 1803. Mr. Smith was an honest, amiable, well-read, and cultivated man. Smith Hall, afterwards called Otsego Hall, was the early home of Fenimore Cooper, whose father, originally agent for the Smiths, acquired the property from them.

Of the items of information contained in this diary, but a small portion is to be found in the printed Journals of the Continental Congress. Two other published diaries relate to the same period in the history of Congress, — that of John Adams, printed, with his autobiography and some notes of debates, in his collected *Writings*, and that of Samuel Ward, published in Vol. I. of the *Magazine of American History*. But Smith's diary is much ampler than Ward's, and has a value independent of that of Adams, by reason of the fact that it relates largely to periods during which Adams was absent from Congress. Its importance and interest are therefore very considerable. Passages in Bancroft's *History of the United States*, Vol. VIII. (1860), pp. 313, 315, show that Mr. Bancroft had seen the diary. It is printed without abbreviation. The text here given has been collated with that of the original manuscript. The manuscript shows, by various indications, that it was copied, at some time later, but not much later, than April, 1776, from daily notes which had been taken in Philadelphia.

*Tuesday 12 September 1775.* I attended at Congress for the first Time since the Adjournment. M<sup>r</sup> Hancock having a Touch of the Gout there was no President in the Chair. The Colonies of New Hampshire and N Carolina absent as also sundry Members from other Colonies. D<sup>r</sup> Franklin read several Letters recieved today by Cap<sup>t</sup> Falkner from London and informed the Members that he had some Bales of Household Goods on Board of Falkner, desiring the Congress's Leave to land them. no Objection to it only Willing and John Rutledge thought it irregular to do Business without a President and it was referred. M<sup>r</sup> Gadsden and others moved for an Adjournment to 10 Tomorrow, which was complied with. 3 of the Georgia Delegates were present with M<sup>r</sup> Peyton Randolph and the new Delegates from Virginia, their Credentials not yet delivered, and little Business hitherto done this session.

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>* M<sup>r</sup> President (Hancock) in the Chair. The Credentials of the Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland Delegates were read and accepted without any Objection. the Marylanders were the same as at the last Session. An Order was made that the Penns<sup>a</sup> Delegates shall send off to Gen. Washington under a proper Guard, the remainder of his Money amounting in the whole to 700,000 Dollars, and they were at the same Time to send the Cloathing for Two Regiments lately seized at Philad<sup>a</sup>.

Duane and Rob. R. Livingston came today from the Indian Treaty at Albany. another Treaty is about to be held at Pittsburg. D<sup>r</sup> Franklins Goods allowed to be landed. a great Number of Letters and Papers were read, some from Gen. Washington giving a particular State of his Army they want Powder and Money — some from Gen. Schuyler stating his Situation ; others from Col. Lewis Morris and Ja<sup>s</sup> Wilson Dated at Fort Pitt recommending an Expedition ag<sup>t</sup> Detroit to be conducted by Col. Arthur S<sup>t</sup> Clair — others from Gov. Trumbull and sundry more.

*Thursday 14 Sept<sup>r</sup>.* Letters read from Gen. Schuyler and others. Col. Francis sent the Journal of the late Indian Treaty at Albany to the Congress which was read. several Members from Virginia, Maryland, Jersey, N York and Connecticut added to the Penns<sup>a</sup> Delegates appointed last Session to settle Accounts. The Georgia Delegates laid the Proceedings of their Provincial Convention before us cont<sup>g</sup> a Petition to the King, another to certain Resolves and other Matters, and motioned for Leave to sell the Cargoes of Two Ships which were shipped without Knowledge of their Agreement of Non Import<sup>n</sup>, and motioned also for Exportation of certain Articles under certain Limitations. these Motions were opposed by Chase and J. Adams and supported by Nelson, Houstoun and Dr. Zubley, the latter out of Humor with Chase. the Consideration of it was put off till Tomorrow. the proposed Expedition to Detroit canvassed and disagreed to and various other Matters.

*Friday 15 Sept<sup>r</sup>.* Debates upon Indian Commissioners for the Middle Department Henry and Franklin being unable to attend at Pittsburg. Col. Lewis Morris and D<sup>r</sup> Thos. Walker appointed to attend there Hac Vice. then the Affair of the Two Cargoes at Georgia referred from Yesterday, was largely agitated and in the End a Resolution drawn by Jay took place importing that the cargoes should be sold and the Proffits if any put into the Hands of the Georgia Convention or Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety to be applied in Defence of the Province. an incidental Matter took up some Time viz, Whether M<sup>r</sup> Nelson should vote for Virginia he being the only Delegate present and whether any lesser Number than the Quorum shall represent any Colony. Mr. Nelson waved his Question, and the other went off without a Determination (since that Time no Colony votes without the Quorum present as limited by their Colony, some authorize 3. some 2 some one Delegate to give a Vote). Two of the Georgia Delegates are possessed of Homespun Suits of Cloaths, an Adornment few other Members can boast of, besides my Bro<sup>r</sup> Crane and myself.

*Saturday 16 Sept<sup>r</sup>.* the greater Part of the Time lost in considering Whether One Officer in our Army may be allowed to hold Two Commissions it was postponed, this was on read<sup>g</sup> Gen. Washingtons Letters, other Parts of his Letters gone into and some small Matters settled.

*Monday 18.* Motion to appoint a Com<sup>ee</sup> to procure 500 Ton of Gunpowder from abroad, together with 10,000 Stand of Arms 20,000 Gun Locks &c with power to draw on the Continental Treasury for the Amount, was carried by Vote, the Payment in Produce was opposed and the further

Consideration postponed. Com<sup>ee</sup> on the Accounts asked Direction how to settle them and the Matter left unsettled Motion by E. Rutledge to enlarge Col. Fenton a Prisoner in Connect<sup>t</sup> from New Hampshire, opposed by Langdon and deferred. Letter from Gen. Schuyler giving an Account of his being at Isle aux Noix and postponing the Attack on Carlton at St Johns till he sounds the Canadians, after having a small Skirmish.

*Tuesday 19 Sept.* Arguments on Gen Schuylers Letter Whether he shall make a Post at Isle aux Noix and what is best to be done in his Situation, a Com<sup>ee</sup> of Three named by Ballot to report their Opinion. a Committee of 9 chosen by Ballot for procuring Arms and Ammunition agreed to banish John Fenton to England at his own Request after considerable Debate. Dr Franklin the PostMaster General desired the Delegates of New Jersey to nominate Deputy PostMasters throughout that Colony which we did accordingly.

*Wednesday 20.* An Expedition is on Foot against the Kings Forces in Canada via Kennebec under Col. Arnold from Washingtons Camp at Cambridge. Com<sup>ee</sup> brought in the Draught of a Letter from our President to Gen Schuyler. large Controversy on some Parts of it and particularly how far we shall express Approbation of his late Proceedings in retreating to Nut Island &c. Gen. Wooster with a considerable Detachment ordered to join Schuyler. this Morning a Letter in French was delivered to the President directed for Gen. Washington said to be from the Governor of Hispaniola. Whether the Letter shall be opened and whether by a select Com<sup>ee</sup> or by the President, were made Questions. the general Opinion seemed to be that the President should open it and the Secretary (Charles Thomson) translate it and if of a public Nature that it should be laid before Congress but it was dropt. Major Robert Rogers was at the State House today he has just come from England and is upon the Kings Halfpay.

*Thursday 21 Sept.* On a Question Whether Col. Armstrong or Col. Fry shall be Brig. Gen. in the Room of Pomeroy retired, the Colonies were divided 6 against 6 — North Car<sup>a</sup> being absent, consequently there was no Appointment. a Com<sup>ee</sup> of 5 was raised to consider of the best Method to convey 10 or 15000 Barrels of Flour and other Provisions to Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup> much said about the Accounts of Col. Thompsons Riflemen, this Gent. had 5000 Dollars advanced to Him but his Acco<sup>ts</sup> are yet unpaid and one demands Interest. the Judge Advocate (Tudor's) wages were raised at his Request from 20 Dollars to 50 Dollars <sup>per</sup> month.

*Friday 22.* — Andrew MacNair Doorkeeper's Acco<sup>t</sup> ordered to be paid. a Letter from John Haring Chairman of the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety in New York and a Letter from Lewis Morris and James Wilson at Fort Pitt read. Major Rogers ordered to be discharged if Nothing appears ag<sup>t</sup> Him but being a Half Pay Officer, he was arrested by the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety of Pennsylvania. a committee of 7 appointed by Ballot to consider the State of Trade in America. — W<sup>m</sup> Shads Acco<sup>t</sup> as Messenger ordered to be paid.

*Saturday 23 Sept.* a Letter from Tho<sup>s</sup> Mifflin Quarter Master to the Army directed to W<sup>m</sup> Barrell Merch<sup>t</sup> was read, desiring Him to forward

Cloathing for the Army, the Congress took that Subject into Consideration and appointed by Ballot a Com<sup>ee</sup> of 5 to supply the Two Armies with Cloathing to the Amount of £5000 sterl'g, and allowed each Quarter Master 5 ¢ Cent for selling out to the Soldiers.

*Monday 25.* A Com<sup>ee</sup> of 3 named to draw an Answer to Gen Washingtons Letters. an Order passed for Payment of Acco<sup>ts</sup> amounting to near 2000 Dollars. A committee of 13, one from each Colony (myself for N Jersey) was named for Settling what Accounts may come this Session. De Hart moved to restrict all Conventions and Assemblies from issuing any more Paper Money and to recall what they have done without Permission from hence, he was not seconded. On reading Wilson and Morris's Letters and other Papers Willing moved that the Congress would interfere in settling a temporary Line between Virginia and Pennsylvania, a Letter was read from the Delegates of those Two Colonies to the Inhabitants recomm'g Peace &c. several Orders of the King in Council Dated in June last relative to this Line were read.

*Tuesday 26 Sept.* Com<sup>ee</sup> brought in a Letter to Gen Washington, in the Course of it E Rutledge moved that the Gen. shall discharge all the Negroes as well Slaves as Freemen in his Army. he (Rutledge) was strongly supported by many of the Southern Delegates but so powerfully opposed that he lost the Point. the Question of the Lines between Penn<sup>a</sup> and Virginia agitated but Nothing determined. the Letters between Washington and Gage ordered to be published, then the Journal was read in Order for Publication and some Parts of it ordered not to be printed as improper for Public Inspection particularly all that was there about fortifying the Passes on Hudsons River and the Directions to the New Yorkers to arm themselves &c.

*Wednesday 27.* 160,000 Dollars ordered to be advanced to Connect<sup>t</sup> in part of their Claim on the Congress. Willing from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on Accounts asked whether a Charge should be allowed made by the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Northampton County in Penn<sup>a</sup> for their Time and Trouble in settling certain Accounts, Mr. Willing was directed not to allow it. the Journal continued to be read and various Parts ordered not to be published, as the Instructions to Gen Wash<sup>n</sup> the Directions to the German Ministers &c. A Petition was read from Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Purviance of Baltimore praying Leave to ship off a Cargo of Wheat which the late Storm prevented, refused and ordered to lie on the Table.

*Thursday 28 Sept.* No Congress. the Members dined by Invitation on Board of the Row Gallies which sailed down to the Chevaux de Frize near Mud Island and up to Point no Point. I amused myself all the Morning in M. du Simitiere's curious Museum.

*Friday 29.* Letters from Gen. Washington with a Return of his Army, about 19,000 effective Men who are to be disbanded in Dec<sup>r</sup> by the Terms of Inlistment, he prays Directions how to keep or raise an Army. Expenses run very high, great Want of Powder and Money. Chief Part of the Morn'g was spent on a Motion to send a Com<sup>ee</sup> of the Congress to the

Army to take proper Measures for the Winter Campaign, it passed in the Affirmative. some Powder said to be just arrived in Delaware our Com<sup>ee</sup> were desired to purchase it. above 80 of our Men have deserted to Gen. Gage in the Course of this Campaign accord'g to Gen. Wash<sup>ns</sup> Dispatches.

*Saturday 30 Sept.* A Com<sup>ee</sup> of 3, viz Harrison, Franklin and Lynch was appointed by Ballot to proceed to the Camp at Cambridge. Harrison and Dyer had an equal Number of Votes, the Question was taken Whether the Com<sup>ee</sup> shall consist of 3 or 4, it was carried for 3. then the Vote was passed for a 3d Committee Man when Harrison was chosen. A Com<sup>ee</sup> of 5 was chosen to draw up Instructions for those Gentlemen. On Motion of D<sup>r</sup> Franklin the Resolution that the Postage should be 20 ¢ Cent less than the Kings Postage was suspended till further Order, he being fearful that the reduced Postage at this Time may not be sufficient to pay all Charges. An Application was made from the Philad<sup>a</sup> Com<sup>ee</sup> to give a Regulation Whether or not the Trade Coastwise shall be continued, and a particular Vessel bound to Gloucester in Mass<sup>a</sup> Bay shall be permitted to proceed. after Debate the Matter was postponed. An Application was made to the Congress by Capt John MacPherson offering to destroy all the British Fleet at Boston if permitted — postponed — (I believe he was afterwards permitted to go and that he came back without effect'g any Thing) M<sup>r</sup> Kean and Willing moved for Us to interfere in the Dispute between Connecticut and Penns<sup>a</sup> for that there is immediate Danger of Hostilities between them on the Susquehannah — deferred till Monday. the Congress adjourned till Monday to meet at the Lodge in Lodge Alley because the election is to be then held at the State House.

*1 October.* I went to Burlington and attended as Inspector of the Press upon printing the £100,000 Loan Office Money and as Clerk of Assembly &c till

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of Dec.* when I went to Philad<sup>a</sup>, and

*Wednesday 13.* I was at Congress The Delegates of Maryland and Georgia all absent. A Report from a Com<sup>ee</sup> was agreed to for equipping Thirteen Ships of War in several Colonies of 32 guns 28 and 24 Guns each and the Expence of each at an Average estimated at 66,666 $\frac{2}{3}$  Dollars. There is a secret Com<sup>ee</sup> whereof Gov<sup>r</sup> Ward is Chairman and Tho<sup>s</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Kean Clerk, M<sup>r</sup> Willing resigned his Seat in it and Robert Morris was chosen in his Room by Ballot Debates upon the Question Whether to make an Adjournment a few Days hence for some Time and to appoint a Com<sup>ee</sup> of One out of each Colony to superintend the Treasury and do the Business left unfinished, agreed to appoint such a Committee if an Adjourn<sup>t</sup> shall take Place and a Com<sup>ee</sup> was now nominated to prepare the Business of the other Com<sup>ee</sup>. Debates whether a Com<sup>ee</sup> of One out of each Colony shall be appointed to take Care of Naval Affairs in the Nature of a Board of Admiralty, postponed. Col. Lee moved to raise the Wages of able Seamen in the Armament now fitting out, from 50/ Penn<sup>a</sup> Cur<sup>r</sup> which had been before fixed by Congress, to £3 6 month and this was carried by Vote. able-bodied Landmen remained as before at 50/ 6 month. the Order for

this day was to consider of giving Gen Washington Directions to storm Boston but various other Matters intervening it was put off till Tomorrow. McKean informed the Congress that many Persons in Penns<sup>a</sup>, Maryland and Jersey sell Tea and drink Tea upon a Report that Congress had granted Leave so to do and he doubted Whether the Committees had Power to restrain them, a Day was fixed for considering the Matter (in April 1776 the Congress gave Leave to sell and use what Tea was in the Country, forbidding any further Importation of it) — M. Crane went home, Livingston and myself remain, Kinsey and De Hart have lately resigned.

*Thursday 14 Dec<sup>r</sup>.* Agreed to read the Minutes for the first Half Hour every Morning and also the preceeding Day's Transactions, accordingly the Journal was begun from the 5<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> last being the Time of Meeting after the last Adjourn<sup>t</sup>. Ordered that the Votes be sent to the Press as fast as they are revised several Matters were marked to be omitted as improper for Public Inspection. Much of the Day was spent upon an Answer to that Part of Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup>'s Letters requesting Directions what to do with the Ships and Cargoes lately taken by our armed Vessels which was at length referred after learned Debates and Authorities from Vattel &c Much Altercation Whether a former Resolution of Congress had passed ag<sup>t</sup> confiscating the Ships taken in Carrying Military Stores or Goods to Boston, the Colonies on Vote were equally divided upon it, however it was agreed that the Cargoes should be forfeited and that such Matters ought to be tried in the Admiralty Court and by the Course of the Law of Nations not of the Municipal Law. The President (Hancock) applied to the Congress to release Lieut. Hay taken in Canada and now in Philad<sup>a</sup> he offering his Parole of Honor to go Home to Scotland, resign his Commission and never serve against America, Lynch, Lee and others for it who were opposed by Nelson and several more, the Question passed in the Affirmative. the Journal of the Indian Treaty lately held by our Commissioners at Pittsburg lies before Congress and is not yet examined. A Member from each Colony (Crane for New Jersey, tho now absent) chosen by Ballot to procure or cause to be built and fitted out the 13 Ships of War yesterday ordered. Gadsden moved that the Congress should purchase a handsome Time Piece and set it up in the Assembly Room in the State House where we meet, as a Present for the Use of the Room, Wilson and Willing desired the Motion might be dropt as the Assembly expected no Consideration and it was withdrawn. Duane presented a Petition from Peter Berton of New York praying Compensation for a Vessel taken by the Men of War, it was referred by Ballot to Lynch, E. Rutledge and myself —

*Friday Dec<sup>r</sup>. 15.* Part of the Journal read and sundry Paragraphs as usual ordered to be omitted in Publication. Controversy Whether a particular Part shall be published, the Colonies were equally divided and the Part is to remain unpublished. Motion by Wilson that all Officers below a Major in the Continental Troops now raising in Penns<sup>a</sup> shall be appointed by the several Committees of Correspondence and Observation was at length rejected and the Mode of Appointment there and in the Lower Counties set-



tled. A Letter and several Papers from some Indians on the Susquehannah, one of them named Jacob Johnson a Preacher, were read and the Indian Messengers ordered to be taken Care of at the Continental Expence. Robert Morris moved that a Com<sup>ee</sup> be nominated to consider of Ways and Means to bring in Gold and Silver and keep it in the Country, it is reported that Half Joes have already risen to £3-2-6, it was debated and postponed till Tomorrow. Col. Lee moved that George Mead & Co. of Philad<sup>a</sup> may export from that City to Virginia 6000 Bushels of Salt and carry abroad Produce to the Amount from thence, opposed by Jay, Lewis and others and supported by Nelson, Wyth, Rob. Morris &c. it passed in the Affirmative 7 Colonies to 4 Com<sup>ee</sup> on Public Acco<sup>ts</sup> reported a Number of Accounts which were allowed and ordered to be paid (the mode of Payment is the President signs an Order to the joint Treasurers Hillegas and Clymer and then they pay the Money) several other Motions and Matters, for these Memoirs only contain what I could readily recollect.

*Saturday 16 Dec.* The Journal read and diverse Passages marked for Omission in Publication, on one Passage there was a vote whether to be printed or not, and the Colonies were equally divided. A Letter read from Gen. Washington advising of some Captures made by our Vessels and that he had released the President of the Island of St Johns and others who had been taken—A Com<sup>ee</sup> of 3 prepared a Speech to be delivered by the President to Cap<sup>t</sup> White Eyes a chief of the Delaware Indians said to reside on the Muskingham, who was then introduced into the Congress accompanied by One of his Councillors and an Interpreter. the Chief was dressed in a good Suit of Blue Cloth with a Laced Hat and his Counsellor was wrapped in a Blanket, Cap<sup>t</sup> White Eyes shook all the Members heartily by the Hand, beginning with the President and used the same Ceremony at his Departure, he stayed about an Hour, Our President delivered the Speech and the Chief answered by his Interpreter that he was well pleased to hear such a good Speech and meet his Brethren in the Grand Council Fire, that he would faithfully report to his Friends the kind Disposition of the Congress and proposed to stay in Town all Winter—he wanted a Clergyman, Schoolmaster and Blacksmith established among his People and said they inclined to embrace Christianity and a more civilized Way of Life. A Copy of the Congress's Speech was given to him when he withdrew, his Counsellor said Nothing. A Motion to keep the Officers and Soldiers all together who were taken at St Johns, took up several Hours and was lost 5 Colonies to 5. A Motion was carried by a bare Majority to permit the Officers to go where they will within the former Orders of Congress till further Order. An Indian introduced Himself by the small Door into the House in the Midst of Debate, he was heard, he wanted Money and was promised a Supply. Several Reports from Committees were made, particularly one relative to Cap<sup>t</sup> Motts Petition. Jefferson moved that no new Motions shall be offered after 12 oCloc without special Permission till the Order of the Day is satisfied, which was agreed to. the Com<sup>ee</sup> appointed to fit out the 13 Ships were impowered to draw on the Treasury

for 500,000 Dollars. Sundry other Things transacted in such a Hurry and Want of Order that I find it impossible to remember them.

*Monday Decr. 18.* The Minutes read and sundry Portions of them marked for Non Publication as usual. An Order passed to allow Cap<sup>t</sup> Mott who takes Care of the Prisoners at Lancaster £30 more for his Expences. Major Preston allowed to go to Lancaster for 10 Days. Com<sup>ee</sup> of Lancaster impowered to take the Parole of the Officers who are prisoners there. Chief Part of the Day spent on the Dispute between Penns<sup>a</sup> and Connecticut, various Resolutions were penned by the Delegates of each Colony but the matter was at last postponed. The Chief Point was Whether Pennsylvania shall have the Jurisdiction over the disputed Territory, She agreeing and her Delegates to pledge themselves for it, that private Property shall not be affected. they declared explicitly that they would not abide by the Determination of Congress unless this was conceded.—An Express arrived from Montreal with Letters from Gen. Montgomery, Col. Arnold and others. Eleven Vessels are taken near Montreal by our people who have also seized Brig. Prescott who had caused all the Powder to be thrown overboard, but the Ships contain plenty of Provision. Ethan Allen is sent to England in Irons. Col. James Livingston is about to raise a Regiment of Canadians in our pay for One Year. Arnold is near Quebec but has not Men enough to surround it and his Powder so damaged, that he has only 5 Rounds apiece. Montgomerys Soldiers very disobedient and many of them come Home without Leave. Frauds discovered in some of his Officers. Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup> in great Want of Powder and most of the Connect<sup>t</sup> Troops have left his Army. Accounts of a Skirmish in Virginia and great Preparations in England for an Invasion of Us in the Spring. We sat from 10 oCloc till the Dusk of the Evening.

*Tuesday Decr. 19.* the Votes read and one Part only marked not to be made Public. agreed to request the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety of Penns<sup>a</sup> to lend some Powder and Stands of Arms to the Ships of War now in this Port and almost ready to sail, on an Engagement to use all Endeavors to return them by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February next. agreed to use the like Endeavors to return by that Time the Powder heretofore borrowed of New York. A Letter from Gen Wash<sup>n</sup> read, the Cruizers there (Massachusetts) have taken Two More of the Enemy's Ships. Debates upon that Part of the Generals Letters requesting Directions how to dispose of the Captures. A report from a Com<sup>ee</sup> read on that Head, an Amendment proposed by Mr. Wyth implying full Leave for any Person to seize all Ships of G Britain wherever found, was lost on a Vote 5 Colonies ag<sup>t</sup> 4 and 2 divided, other Resolves were agreed to after Opposition, importing that all Vessels with their Cargoes including all Men of War, found any way assisting the Enemy shall be liable to confiscation. Some Powder just arrived here and at Dartmouth in N. England

*Wednesday Decr. 20.* The Votes read and no Passage erased. David Beveridge allowed to send out Produce for Arms and Ammunition. Cap<sup>t</sup> Henry Livingston here, the Congress has ordered a handsome Sword to

be made and presented to Him as the Messenger, some Weeks ago, of the Surrender of Montreal. Some money allowed to the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> Spencer and the Rev. M<sup>r</sup> MacWhorter who are going at the Request of Congress, among the Regulators of North Carolina. Col. Harrison moved something relative to a Vessel or Two of War ordered heretofore to be fitted out at and for Virginia and a Com<sup>ee</sup> was appointed. Lord Dunmore is driven to his Ships by the Virginians. Gen Was<sup>h</sup>s Letters proceeded upon and Answers agreed to. Debate Whether Butter shall be Continued to his Army and carried in the Affirmative. Motion by Jay to allow it to the rest of the Troops, denied or shuffled off. Application from 2 Inhabitants of Nantucket for Leave to import there various Articles of Goods was thrown out, they are allowed Firing and Provisions. Much Time spent on the Wyoming Dispute. Two resolutions were on the Table, one drawn by the Delegates of Pennsylv<sup>a</sup> and the other by Connecticut, the former gave Pennsylvania the temporary Jurisdiction and the latter left each Party to exercise Juris<sup>d</sup> on their respective Possessions. the Vote passed in Favor of the Connect<sup>t</sup> resolve 6 Colonies to 4 and Mr. Livingston and myself declined voting for our Colony. the Delegates of Penns<sup>a</sup> were very angry and discontented with this Determination of Congress.

*Thursday Dec<sup>r</sup> 21.* The Journal read and several Parts to be omitted as usual. M<sup>r</sup> Rogers took his Seat as a Delegate for Maryland, Mr. John Penn from N Carolina had been here some Time. M<sup>r</sup> Kean made report from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on Gen. Schuylers Letters it was partly considered and some Articles agreed to. By Ballot D<sup>r</sup> Holmes was chosen Surgeon and M<sup>r</sup> Halstead Quarter Master to the two Battalions (L<sup>d</sup> Stirlings and Maxwells) just raised in N Jersey. The Congress resolved itself into a Grand Com<sup>ee</sup>, Gov<sup>t</sup> Ward in the Chair, to consider Whether to order the General to storm or bombard Boston in Answer to part of his Dispatches, it was made a Question Whether the Continent should indemnify the Losers. the Gen. says he can, if it is a hard Winter, destroy the Fleet and Army there and at any Rate he can bombard and ruin the Town when he pleases. the Chairman desired Leave to sit again. Leave for M. de Rigouville a Canadian Gent<sup>l</sup> one of the Kings Legislative Council there, but now Prisoner at Trenton to come to Town to confess Himself to the Priest. James Livingston Esq<sup>r</sup> Colonel and the other Officers of the new Canadian Regiment ordered to be Commissioned. The grateful Acknowledgments of the Congress ordered to Montgomery, Arnold and Easton. a N York Battalion which had returned Home and quitted their Officers ordered to be filled up. Wilson offered a Resolve importing that no more Connecticut People should settle at Wyoming till the Title of the Lands was adjudged, an Amend<sup>t</sup> offered that no Pennsylvanians should settle there was voted out and the further Consid<sup>n</sup> of Wilsons Resolve was adjourned.

*Friday Dec<sup>r</sup> 22.* the Journal read and some Passages marked. Letters from Lord Stirling and others read, my Lord gives an Account of the Situation and Condition of the 2 Battalions in Jersey and complains of the Increase of Toryism. The House again in Grand Com<sup>ee</sup> on the

Boston Affair and after much canvassing and sundry Propositions offered, the Vote passed for directing Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup> to destroy the Army and Navy at Boston in any Way He and a Council of War shall think best, even if the Town must be burnt, 7 Colonies to 2, one not fully represented and our Colony divided Wm. Livingston being ag<sup>t</sup> the Resolution and myself for it. M<sup>r</sup> Hancock spoke heartily for this Measure. Esek Hopkins Esq<sup>r</sup> of Rhode Island (the same that commanded their Forces in Quality of Brig. General) appointed Commander in Chief of the American Fleet, he is to sail with the Ships of War now fitting out in the Port of Philadelphia and his Pay was voted to be 125 Dollars  $\text{\textcircled{p}}$  month 6 Colonies to 4, the latter thought the Pay too high. the Captains, Lieut<sup>s</sup> and Warrant Officers as appointed by our Com<sup>ee</sup> for Naval Affairs, were ordered to be Commissioned, the Question was put Whether any Allowance shall be made to the Admiral for Table Expences and negatived by a large Majority. M<sup>r</sup> Hopkins had very generously offered to serve without any Pay. Col. Lee and others gave Him a high Character. A Com<sup>ee</sup> chosen to confer with the Indians now at the State House. Gen Schuylers Letters finished. Col Harrison the Delegate's Expences ordered to be paid for going lately to Maryland to promote the Equipment of some Frigates there. Motion by Gadsden to publish that Part of Gen Schuylers Letters where the Indians say that Guy Johnson invited them to take up the Hatchet against the Colonists and that he roasted an Ox and gave them a Pipe of Wine asking them to feast on the Flesh and Blood of a New England Man — was deferred, part of Conollys Letters was ordered to put in the News-Papers.

*Saturday Dec<sup>r</sup> 23.* the Journal read and some Parts marked not to be printed. Letter from L<sup>d</sup> Stirling praying to be furnished with Powder and Six Field Pieces to defend some Vessels that have taken Shelter on the Coasts of Bergen and Essex, he has seized some Tories. Langdon reported the Proceed'gs of Himself and his Two Colleagues who have been sent by Congress to Ticonderoga, which were read and referred. their Expences reported by the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims and Payment ordered. this Com<sup>ee</sup> reported other Accounts which were allowed. Dyer read an Act of the Connec<sup>t</sup> Legislature just passed, forbidding more Settlers to go on the Wyoming Lands on certain Conditions till further Order of that Assembly, Jay moved that it be recommended to Connec<sup>t</sup> to extend the Time till further Order of this Congress, his Motion was carried 4 Colonies to 3 and the rest either divided or absent. the Delegates of Connecticut wanted to set aside this Vote because it was not carried by a Majority of the Colonies present, sed non allocavit. Duane gave in a Sett of Resolves for Sinking the last 3 Millions of Dollars, similar to those on the former 3 Millions and to be sunk in the same Years. they were all agreed to except the Time of Sinking which required further consideration. Debate Whether to admit Cap<sup>t</sup> John the Tuscarora Chief and his Companions into Congress terminated in requiring the Com<sup>ee</sup> to provide them with Food and Raiment for their Return Home. Col. Lee

and Cushing had Leave of Absence. Motion by Gadsden to publish the Part of Gen Schuylers Letters mentioned in Yesterdays Notes, was carried in the Affirmative Jefferson from the Com<sup>ee</sup> brought in a List of Business before Us. The Com<sup>ee</sup> on Cap<sup>t</sup> Peter Bertons Petition reported that the Prayer of it ought not to be allowed and the Report was confirmed. The Prayer from New York for a large Loan of Continental Bills, disapproved of. the Delegates of Penns<sup>a</sup> ordered to inquire what Progress is made in Exchanging Continental Bills for Gold and Silver. A Proposition or Report from a Com<sup>ee</sup> to send abroad a great Quantity of Produce to be returned in hard Money. A Com<sup>ee</sup> reported the Draught of an Answer to Gen Montgomerys Letters, advising a General Convention to be summoned in Canada and Delegates to be sent to our Congress &c. Some suppose we ought to keep up at least 3000 Troops in that Province. adjourned till Tuesday, Monday being Christmas.

*Tuesday 26 Dec.* Votes of Saturday read and Letters from Gen. Washington, from Dr John Morgan, from some New England men at Guadeloupe and other Letters. Duanes Propositions for sinking the last 3 Millions of Dollars were gone thro, the Vote was taken Whether that Money shall be sunk in the Years 1779, 1780, 1781 and 1782 as the first 3 Millions or in the Years 1783, 1784, 1785 and 1786 and carried for the latter. R. Morris informs that Treasurer Clymer says there is about £6000 in Gold and Silver now in the Treasury, Jay moved that it may be immediately sent off to Gen Schuyler which was agreed to. Report from a Com<sup>ee</sup> recommending inter alia that all Persons who refuse the Continental Bills shall be declared Enemies to their Country was postponed. A Day fixed to consider Whether on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March next to open the Exportation trade. Instructions to Lieut. Col. Irwin brought in by Jefferson and passed. this officer is to go from hence to Virginia immed'y with what Companies are ready. Report made from a Com<sup>ee</sup> recom'g that no more Paper Money may be made by Congress but that the Money wanted for the future may be borrowed and the Treasurers give Notes bearing Interest for 100 Dollars and upwards &c referred till Tomorrow. Jay moved that the several Comm<sup>ees</sup> of Inspection in each Colony should transmit to the Congress Accounts of what Produce has been and shall be exported, with the Returns of Arms and Ammunition and the Prices and Values and to this there was no Objection. An Order took place that all Soldiers in our Service may get their Letters franked and send them free from Postage. L<sup>d</sup> Stirlings Letters were referred to William Livingston, Jay and S. Adams. several other Reports, Motions and Matters acted upon.

*Wednesday 27 Dec.* A Motion was made to allow an Importation of Salt into Virginia, an Amend<sup>t</sup> offered that the Allowance should be general, this Amend<sup>t</sup> was strongly opposed by Lynch and others, and large Argum<sup>ts</sup> upon it, the further Consid<sup>n</sup> deferred till Friday Report from a Com<sup>ee</sup> that 6 Battalions are necessary to be raised for the Continental Service in Virginia (their Convention request 8 Battalions) it was largely controverted Whether they shall recieve the Pay of 6 Dollars

and Two Thirds allowed to the Troops in N. England the Two Carolinas and Georgia, or the reformed Pay of 5 Dollars  $\text{p}$  month allowed to the Forces raised in N York, N Jersey, Penns<sup>a</sup> and the Lower Counties and at length the Determination was postponed by the Interposition of New Jersey according to our Rule that any One Colony may put off the Vote till another Day. Lieut. Hay allowed to negotiate a Bill of Exchange to pay his Expences home to Scotland. Complaints of the bad Behavior of some of the Captive Officers and Cap<sup>t</sup> Motts Affidavit ordered to be taken thereon. An Allowance made of £3  $\text{p}$  man for Cap<sup>t</sup> Motts Guard on their Return Home to Connect<sup>d</sup>. This Day, it is said, the King's Post finally stopt and the Postmasters shut up the Office.

*Thursday 28.* the Journals read and one Passage ordered for Omission. Report of Accounts from the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims allowed. One of them was for maintaining some Prisoners in Goal, Harrison moved to enlarge them. Vote Whether the Virginian 6 Battalions shall have 37/6 or 50/  $\text{p}$  month our Curr<sup>y</sup> was carried for the latter if their Convention cannot raise Men cheaper, 3 Colonies only in the Negative, then a Motion was made by the Virginians that the 6 Battal<sup>s</sup> shall be altered to 8. sed non allocatur. there was a considerable Controversy on the main Question Whether the 6 Batt<sup>s</sup> shall be raised, it was carried in the Affirmative then a Motion was made by Wilson supported by M<sup>c</sup>Kean, W<sup>m</sup> Livingston and others that the Middle Colony Troops shall have the same Pay, after some Time spent therein it was postponed. Some Talk about dispatching Bulls Regiment to Virginia. Montgomery some Weeks ago was created a Major General. 8000 Dollars advanced to the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety of Penn<sup>a</sup> towards Payment of Bulls Battalion. £5 advanced to the Indians for travelling Charges. A Com<sup>ee</sup> of 5 ballotted for to consider the present State of N York. A Report brought in on the Petition of Cap<sup>t</sup> Coffin and Paddock of Nantucket.

*Friday 29 Dec<sup>r</sup>.* Journal read and one or Two passages ordered to be omitted in Publication. A Petit<sup>n</sup> from Simeon Sellick committed to myself, Col. Floyd and Francis Lightfoot Lee Esq<sup>r</sup>. The House went into Grand Committee, Gov. Ward in the Chair, when it was agreed after much Debate to allow Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina to import as much Salt as their several Conventions or Committees of Safety think necessary from any foreign Country, and to export Produce therefor. Debates upon opening our Ports to foreign Countries after the 1<sup>st</sup> of March next, within the Terms of our Association, adjourned. A Recommendation to the several Assemblies and Conventions to encorage the Manufacture of Salt, was offered by D<sup>r</sup> Franklin, agreed to and ordered to be published. R. Morris informed that a person offers to establish Salt Works on the Jersey Coast if the Congress will lend him £200. M<sup>r</sup> Morris and Lynch were desired to inquire more particularly into it. M<sup>c</sup>Kean gave Information that a Quantity of Arms, Ammunition and Cannon is buried near Sir John Johnsons House with his Privy and that some Scotch and other Tories are there enlisted by the Enemy, a Com<sup>ee</sup> of 3 was appointed to examine the Two Men who

brought the report to M<sup>e</sup>Kean and to ascertain the Fact as far as they can. Leave granted for a Lieut. a Prisoner, to come to Philad<sup>a</sup> for 2 Weeks. Andrew Allen presented a Petition from a Number of the Inhabitants of Northampton and other back Parts of Pennsylvania intimating that they will not obey the Recommendations of Congress in the Wyoming Affair, this Petition gave much Offence and was ordered to lie on the Table. An Application from the Virginia Convention praying Means may be used for the Release of 3 Gentlemen, one of them a Delegate in that Convention named Robinson, lately seized by Lord Dunmore, left for Consideration (the brave Cap<sup>t</sup> Manly retook and released these Gent<sup>n</sup> on their Voyage to Gen. Howe at Boston)

*Saturday 30 Dec.* A Letter from Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup> with a packet of Letters just taken by Cap<sup>t</sup> Manley in a Vessel sent with Provisions from Lord Dunmore to Gen Howe (the same Vessel mentioned in the last page) these Letters were from L<sup>d</sup> Dunmore, one Mulcaster, said to be the Kings Natural Brother, Hon. John Stuart and many more Persons in the Southern Colonies One Col. Kirkland of S. Carolina was taken in this Vessel. The Letters took up most of the Day in the Perusal, the S Car<sup>a</sup> Delegates pressed strongly to have the Originals delivered to them and the Virginia Delegates and the Congress to keep attested Copies, but it was opposed and the Letters referred to a Com<sup>ee</sup> there was no Objection to those Delegates taking attested Copies. Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup> has sent to Gen. Howe a spirited Letter informing Him that whatever Severities are inflicted on Col. Allen shall be retaliated on Brig. Gen. Prescott and the like as to other prisoners, a Copy of the Letter was read in Congress. Another Letter was rec<sup>d</sup> from Wash<sup>n</sup> recom<sup>g</sup> 2 French Gent<sup>n</sup> who offered to supply this Continent with Powder and these Gent<sup>n</sup> being in Town our Secret Com<sup>ee</sup> were desired to treat with them. Leave given to Major Preston to go for 2 weeks to Amboy, after much Opposition. A Guard of 5 men ordered immediately to convoy the hard Money to Gen. Schuyler and to take with them the Men who informed ag<sup>t</sup> Sir John Johnson 40 Dollars allowed for their Expences A Com<sup>ee</sup> directed to give proper orders to Gen Schuyler on this Occasion. Myself from the Com<sup>ee</sup> made Report on Cap<sup>t</sup> Simeon Sellecks Petition. He commands a small Privateer in Connect<sup>t</sup> and lately took at Turtle Bay in the Sound, Kings stores to the Amo<sup>t</sup> of £1500 lawful Money of Connect<sup>t</sup> We allowed Him £100 like Money as a Reward for his Expences, Trouble and Risque, he gave up his Prize for the Continental Use. Debates Whether to stop Lieut<sup>t</sup> Moncrief who some Months ago had Leave to go to England and is now about going. he was at length allowed to go.

*Monday 1 January 1776.* We finished reading the Journal and sundry Passages were marked, according to Custom as improper for present Publication. some Letters read. An Expedition ag<sup>t</sup> St Augustine recommended to the Colonies of S. and N. Carolina and Georgia if the ruling Powers there shall deem it practicable. Report from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on L<sup>d</sup> Stirlings Letters partly agreed to, 1000 Dollars and 400 Weight of

Powder was allowed, and partly disagreed to and recommitted much was said upon that Part of it relative to disarming and securing the Tories in N Jersey and in case persons ordered to be secured by Authority would not surrender, then to put them to Death, during this Debate Wilson moved that all Persons in the 13 United Colonies who would not sign the Association should be disarmed and several written Propositions were made about disarming, securing and destroying such Tories as resisted an Arrest ordered by the present Authority. 2 Companies of L<sup>d</sup> Stirlings Reg<sup>t</sup> are to go to New Fort on the North River in the Highlands. the Report on Capt. Sellicks Affair confirmed. An Order passed to commission the Officers of the Battalions raised in N. Carolina. Motion by Dyer to pay a Gentlemans Expences who accompanied the 2 Frenchmen from Gen. Wash<sup>rs</sup> Camp, was postponed. Motion by Langdon and Bartlett to take one Battalion of the New Hampshire Troops into Continental Pay was opposed by Jay and others and the Matter adjourned. A printed Copy of Mr. Rittenhouse's Oration was presented to each Delegate by the Philosophical Society of Philad<sup>a</sup> and in Nov<sup>r</sup> preceeding Mess<sup>rs</sup> Norman and Bell dedicated to and furnished the Members with a neat American Edition of Swan's Designs in Architecture. A former Article or Order respecting Deserters was ordered to be published in the Papers. An Adjutant chosen by Ballot for Col Bulls Battalion.

*Tuesday 2 Jan<sup>r</sup>* Before Congress met I attended the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims. Some Acco<sup>ts</sup> of Cap<sup>t</sup> Mott, Egbert Dumond and others for Subsistance and traveling Expences of the Prisoners from S<sup>t</sup> Johns, were adjusted, these Expences run very high. Yesterdays Minutes read. Agreed to write to Gen Schuyler ordering Him to confine Brig. Gen. Prescott now at Kingston in Ulster County, till further Order, acquaint'g Him, Schuyler, of the reason viz the ill Usage of Col. Ethan Allen. We did not order the Prisoner into Irons because it is not quite certain how Allen is treated. Some Acco<sup>ts</sup> were reported by M<sup>r</sup> Willing Chairman of the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims which were passed. Gadsden moved to add a Friend of his to John Rutledge and Middleton now in S. Carolina to whom the Dispatches of Congress relative to the Attack on S<sup>t</sup> Augustine are to be directed, and he further moved for Leave to repair to S. Carolina he being Commander in Chief of the Militia there where an Attack is apprehended. these Motions were opposed by his Colleagues Lynch and E. Rutledge and others and were carried in the Negative. Bartlett and S. Adams were added to the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims. the Com<sup>ee</sup> on L<sup>d</sup> Stirlings Letters again made Report which being discussed and amended was passed and that Part of it concerning the future Treatment of the Tories was directed to be published in the News Papers. The Report from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on Cap<sup>t</sup> Coffin and Cap<sup>t</sup> Paddocks Petition whereby they allowed Nantucket to import 7000 Barrels of Flour  $\frac{7}{8}$  Annum, there being on that Island about 7000 People, was objected to and at length rejected. It is said We have no less than 51 Battalions now raised or ordered so to be in the 13 United Colonies. a thin Congress today, not more than 30 Members.



*Wednesday 3<sup>d</sup>.* I was on the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims sundry Acco<sup>ts</sup> were there adjusted as Cap<sup>t</sup> Motts, the Signers of the first 3 Millions of Dollars whose Acco<sup>t</sup> came to £437-2-8½ Penns<sup>a</sup> Cur. and some others. In Congress the Report on the State of New York was considered. Col. Nat Heard of the Minute Men at Woodbridge and Col. Warterbury of Connecticut are ordered to take each a large Body of their Men and meet at a Day agreed on in Queens County Long Island and there disarm the Tories and secure the Ringleaders who it is said are provided with Arms and Ammunition from the Asia Man of War, and other Parts of the Report agreed to as was a Report from the Secret Com<sup>ee</sup> implying that a large Quantity of Produce shall be exported for a Supply of Sail Cloth, other Cloth, Blankets, Needles, Military Stores and other Necessaries to fit out our Fleet and Army. A Report recommend'g to send out Produce to the Amount of 160,000 Dollars for the Importation of Gold and Silver, was rejected after thorough Discussion. M<sup>r</sup> Alexander from Maryland took his Seat. Reports of Accounts from the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims confirmed. A Letter was recieved from M<sup>r</sup> Hanson Chairman of a Com<sup>ee</sup> in Maryland with Conolly and Cameron Two Prisoners. Smith made his Escape. The Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety here were desired to secure and take the Examination of these Criminals and a Letter was directed to be sent to the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Frederick County to search a certain Saddle for Conollys Instructions. Intelligence of this Saddle had been rec<sup>d</sup> from Gen. Wash<sup>n</sup> from whom a Letter was now rec<sup>d</sup> inclos'g a Copy of Gen. Howe's Answer to our Generals spirited Requisition about Allen. An Answer was made up and sealed to L<sup>d</sup> Stirling inclosing Copies of the necessary Papers. Application was made from the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Philad<sup>a</sup> asking Advice Whether to secure L<sup>d</sup> Drummond and Andrew Elliot now in Philad<sup>a</sup>. some Members gave them good political Characters and they remained unhurt. 4 Colonels were ballotted for to command the 4 Battalions now raising in Penns<sup>a</sup> These officers were chosen as the Delegates of that Province recommended viz 1 Arthur S<sup>t</sup> Clair who ranks next to Col. Bull 2. John Shee 3 Anthony Wayne 4 Robert Magaw. they had been ballotted for with 4 others in the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety and had the highest Votes.

*Thursday 4 Jan<sup>r</sup>* Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims allowed the Acco<sup>ts</sup> for keeping Conolly and his Associates and bringing them from Maryland to Philad<sup>a</sup>. Congress agreed to raise a Sixth Battalion in Penns<sup>a</sup> and in the Counties of Cumberland and York, the People there offering their Service, and that one Comp<sup>y</sup> in each of the Six Battalions shall consist of Riflemen. the Lieut. Col<sup>s</sup> to the 4 Penns<sup>a</sup> Battal<sup>s</sup> were now appointed and an Order entered for settling the Rank of Officers chosen in one Day viz. as they are entered on our Journals and their Commissions are to be numbered. The said L<sup>d</sup> Col<sup>s</sup> are 1. Lambart Cadwallader 2. Wm. Allen Jun<sup>r</sup> 3 Francis Johnston, 4 Joseph Penrose. Reports from the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims allowed. Debates on the Report of the State of N York, great Fault found with the Fort now constructing in the Highlands under the Auspices of Bernard Romans the Engineer, as too large and expensive and ill calculated to annoy the Enemy. Maps produced and Proceedings of the N York Con-

vention thereon read. M<sup>r</sup> Palmer attending on their Behalf, ordered that he be heard Tomorrow Morn'g. a Vessel or Two of War are now fitting out in Maryland on Acco<sup>t</sup> of the Congress. I rec<sup>d</sup> from the Continental Treasury the 1000 Dollars lately advanced to our Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety for purchasing Arms for the Use of the Continental Troops raised here. I wrote to Samuel Tucker Esq<sup>r</sup>, Presid<sup>t</sup> of the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety and forwarded the Dispatches and Articles of War to L<sup>d</sup> Stirling. the Majors of the 4 Penns<sup>a</sup> Battalions were appointed viz. 1 Jos. Wood 2. Geo. Nagle 3. Henry Bicker 4. Nicholas Hausaker. A Commissary ordered for the 3 companies gone to Accomac (they were afterwards recalled) Major Preston allowed the Liberty of other Captive Officers. A report made on the Allowance proper for Officers Prisoners.

*Friday 5.* On my Motion it was resolved that 10,000 Dol<sup>r</sup> shall be struc to exchange ragged and torn Bills, under the Inspection of the Persons now forwarding the last 3 Millions and of the same Denomin<sup>n</sup>. A Collection of Money was made among the Delegates for M<sup>r</sup> Lovell now in Boston Goal and a Requisition agreed to be made through Washington to Howe, to exchange that Gent<sup>n</sup> for Major Skeene Sen<sup>r</sup> it had been proposed to present Him with 100 or 200 Doll<sup>r</sup> but that was dropt as a bad Precedent. M<sup>r</sup> Palmer and Cap<sup>t</sup> — from New York called in and examined as to the Fortifications to be built on Hudsons River, this Affair took up several Hours and was at last, after passing a Resol<sup>n</sup> to abandon the Works at Martilers Rock with Romans the Projector of them and to fortify at Poplopens Kill, referred back to the N. York Convention or Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety to execute this Resolve as they may think fit. the Delegates of N Jersey and Connect<sup>t</sup> were desired to take the proper Steps for carry'g into Execution the Resolves of Yesterday about disarming and seizing the Tories on Long Island. some Acco<sup>ts</sup> passed and the New York Report agreed to. A long Memorial from the Town of Newport was presented pray'g Leave to continue to supply the British Men of War with Provisions otherwise they fear immediate Destruction, this was postponed. The Com<sup>ee</sup> of Phil<sup>a</sup> prayed Directions about selling and drinking Tea, which was deferred. Benj<sup>a</sup> Davies eldest Lieut. in Col. Bulls Battalion was chosen by Ballot a Captain vice W<sup>m</sup> Allen Jun. promoted to a L<sup>t</sup> Col-ship. An Application from the Wife of Lieut. Tyler of Connect<sup>t</sup> now a Prisoner on Board of the Men of War near N York requesting Means may be used for exchanging Him, Deferred. Our Secret Com<sup>ee</sup> have sent to Europe for some able Engineers much wanted now in America. it is said a Specimen of the Saltpetre Rock in Virginia was sometime past produced in Congress. Quaere Whether it answers Expectation.

*Saturday 6 Jan<sup>r</sup>* Minutes of yesterday read and Letters informing of a considerable Quantity of Powder just arrived at Egg Harbor, some of it consigned to the Congress by Jonat<sup>n</sup> Parsons, some consigned to Pelatiah Webster and some to another Person in Philad<sup>a</sup>. Congress agreed to purchase the whole and the Secret Com<sup>ee</sup> are desired to have it brought here under a Guard commanded by a Lieut. a Letter of Thanks directed

to be sent to M<sup>r</sup> Parsons for his Attention to the Public Welfare. I sent off the Dispatches to Col<sup>l</sup> Waterbury and Heard by M<sup>r</sup> Palmer of N York province. A Letter was recieved from a French or Swiss Officer at Lisbon offering his Service and another or Two from other Foreign Officers, these were committed to the Secret Com<sup>ee</sup>. The Memorial from the Town of Newport was agitated for several Hours and at last referred generally to the Assembly of Rhode Island. M<sup>r</sup> Gadsden from the Naval Com<sup>ee</sup> reported the Rules for Distribution of the Prize Money which were confirmed with one Alteration viz, That the Rewards for extraordinary Exertions shall not be paid out of the Continental Share of the Captures. Letters just rec<sup>d</sup> from Gen<sup>l</sup> Schuyler, Montgomery and Wooster pressing for an immediate Supply of hard Money and for more Troops otherwise they fear all will be lost in that Quarter. Montgomery was before Quebec on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> with 8 or 900 effective Men and some Canadians and had planted by Way of Feint a Battery of Cannon ag<sup>t</sup> the Lower Town but intended his chief Efforts by Way of Storm ag<sup>t</sup> the Upper Town. Monday Morn'g was assigned to consider this Business and Nothing else to interfere, the Delegates to be upon Honor to meet punctually at 10 oCloc. A Report respecting Canada was produced. D<sup>r</sup> Franklin shewed me today a Pattern Paper containing 6 or 8 Sorts of Cloths lately manufactured at one or both of the Company Manufactories of Philad<sup>a</sup>. Col<sup>l</sup> Heard and Waterbury are to disarm the Tories of Queens County on Oath that they have delivered up all their Arms and ammunit<sup>n</sup> and to imprison all that refuse the Oath, these Tories are not to quit their County without a Pass certifying that they are welldisposed to the American Cause—all to be considered as Tories who voted ag<sup>t</sup> sending Delegates to the present N York Convention no Lawyer may bring an Action for them. Quaere Whether People are not forbid to trade with these Tories. the Col<sup>l</sup> are also to seize certain Persons named in a List and confine them till further Order of Congress. 500 Doll<sup>r</sup> and 200 Lb. of Powder allowed for the Expedition (which was afterwards well executed by the Jersey Militia only those of Connect<sup>t</sup> being countermanded)

*Monday 8 January.* Votes of Saturday read as were Letters from Gen<sup>l</sup> Schuyler and Montgomery. the latter, it seems, was before Quebec the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> and expects Success in his intended Storm, he demands 10,000 Men to defend Canada. A Report consisting of several Articles about that Country was agreed to, then it was voted, after much Consideration that 9 Battalions shall be destined for the Service in Canada including the Canadian Regiment there which is intended to consist of 1000 Men under Col. James Livingston. A Battalion consists of about 726 Officers and Men. One of these Battalions is to be raised in New Hampshire, One in Connect<sup>t</sup>, One in N York. Col. Maxwells to be sent out of N Jersey, Col Bull's to be sent out of Penns<sup>a</sup> and a new One to be raised there, Two to be reinlisted from the Corps under Montg<sup>y</sup> and Arnold. this Business took up the whole Day but previous to its coming on and after the Letters were read, Gadsden moved and was seconded by me that

Col. Arnold may be made a Brigadier Gen. and recieve the Thanks of the Congress for his extraordinary March from Cambridge to Quebec and for his other spirited Exertions, this was debated and put off till Tomorrow. The Kings Speech of the 27<sup>th</sup> of October (1775) arrived to day as did a Report that a large Fleet was seen at Sea with 5000 Troops on Board, but some think this premature. An Express came with Letters from Baltimore inform'g that L<sup>d</sup> Dunmore has destroyed the Town of Norfolk in Virginia. 300 Barrels of Powder just arrived in New York as did 8 Ton the Week before. 50 or 60 Tons of Saltpetre arrived here at Phil<sup>a</sup> in Masons Vessel, the 3 Comp<sup>s</sup> under L<sup>t</sup> Col. Irwin of Bulls Battal<sup>n</sup> gone to Accomac are to return soon and be replaced by Minute men from Maryland.

*Tuesday Jan. 9.* the Votes read and some Letters, one of them from Matthew Tilghman Esq. President of the Convention in Maryland desiring our Two small armed Vessels the Hornet and Viper at Baltimore may convoy to the Capes of Virginia some Vessels going with Provisions on Acco<sup>t</sup> of the Congress, to get Necessaries for our Fleet and Army, this was agreed to and Directions are to be given to Admiral Hopkins to meet them. A Letter from L<sup>d</sup> Stirling enclosing a Packet which he caused to be intercepted near Elizabeth Town containing 1. A Letter from Gov. Franklin to Lord Dartmouth inimical to the Americans which inclosed a printed Journal of Congress, an Extract from the Votes of the Jersey Convention, a Paper from New England, a Copy of a Petition to our Assembly against Independency, the manuscript Votes of last Session, with his Messages and the Councils and some Newspapers as also some Notes of the Speeches made in our Assembly by John Dickinson John Jay and Geo. Wyth when they lately attended there from the Congress and prevailed with the Assembly to drop their Petition to the King, there was likewise a Copy of John De Harts Resignation, divers of these papers were in the Hand Writing of Cortland Skinner Speaker of the Assembly who immediately upon this Discovery fled on Board of the Ship Dutchess of Gordon, those copied by Him were the Extract, the Paper from N England, the Notes and the Resignation, the Petition was in Dan<sup>l</sup> Ellis's Hand. 2. A Letter from Cortland Skinner to his Bro<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> full of strong Toryism. some Letters were in the Packet directed to M<sup>r</sup> Gage which L<sup>d</sup> Stirling opened and sent forward. After going thro other Business the Congress directed that the Presid<sup>t</sup> shall write to L<sup>d</sup> Stirling to seize Cortland Skinner and to keep Him confined till further Order from hence and that he be examined before the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety in N Jersey who are to have a Copy of his Letter and his Examin<sup>n</sup> is to be transmitted to this Congress. Nothing was done respecting Gov. Franklin. The Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims reported some Acco<sup>ts</sup> for Cartage of Powder, to Cambridge and Accounts of Abr<sup>m</sup> Hunt and others which brought on a Discourse of the extravagant Living of the Captive Officers at Trenton, a Motion was made that they be notified that it shall be at their own Expen<sup>ce</sup> which was committed to W<sup>m</sup> Livingston, Floyd and Dyer. The Report on Gen. Schuylers Letters was taken up, some of the Articles agreed to and some recommitted. Cap<sup>t</sup>

Lamb of the Artillery was rewarded with the Rank of Major and to be allowed 50 Dollars  $\text{p}$  Month from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January Instant and to be Commandant of the Artillery in Canada, the PayMaster with Schuylers Army to be allowed Two Deputies. John MacPherson aidduCamp to Montg<sup>y</sup> promoted to be a Major, a Conductor of Artillery appointed, distinct from the Commandant, — the Promotion of Arnold was again moved and deferred till Tomorrow. Wilson moved and was strongly supported that the Congress may expressly declare to their Constituents and the World their present Intentions respecting an Independency, observing that the Kings Speech directly charged Us with that Design, he was opposed but Friday was fixed for going into that Affair. Several Members said that if a Foreign Force shall be sent here, they are willing to declare the Colonies in a State of Independent Sovereignty. M. Pliant one of the Two Frenchmen in Treaty with our Secret Com<sup>ee</sup> offers to supply the Continent from France with all Sorts of Goods and Military Stores at the price common in France and hints that our Ships may trade to that Kingdom by Connivance and that they are willing to send their Bottoms here, he treats apparently in Behalf of a Company at Paris and he stays here till his Partner returns from thence. the Militia ordered to be discharged from the Fort at the Highlands on Hudsons River. 500,000 Dollars voted to be sent to Gen Washington through the Penns<sup>a</sup> Delegates. the President desired to write to Gen. Schuyler inter alia requiring Him to try Lieut. Halsey at a Court Martial. Col. Van Schaick, L<sup>t</sup> Col. Yates and Major Gansevoort are to be continued in the Service and appointed to that Battal<sup>n</sup> now to be raised in N York. A Communication is to be opened between Skeenesborough and Fort Anne and Wood Creek to be cleared out.

*Wednesday 10 Jan<sup>r</sup>* the Votes of Yesterday read. 35,000 Dollars allowed to Thomas Lowrey the Jersey Commissary in Addition to what he has had, for fitting out L<sup>t</sup> Stirlings and Maxwells Troops. the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety in Penns<sup>a</sup> desired to fit out with Necessaries their 6 Battalions. A Third Battalion ordered to be raised in N Jersey on the same Terms with the other Two, this was on Motion of W. Livingston. Duane moved that 4 more Battalions may be raised in N York, after Discussion it was referred to a Com<sup>ee</sup> of 5 now named to consider what Force is necessary to be raised in the 13 United Colonies. The Two vacant Brigadierships were now filled up, the Penns<sup>a</sup> Delegates, Wilson in particular, contended strenuously for Col. Thompson but Major Gen. Fry of the Massachusetts was elected 9 Colonies to 3. Benedict Arnold Esq<sup>r</sup> was unanimously elected the other Brig. The Field Officers of the 6<sup>th</sup> Penns<sup>a</sup> Battalion were fixed, viz W<sup>m</sup> Irvin Col. Tho<sup>s</sup> Hartley L<sup>t</sup> Col. and James Dunlap Major. the Resolution for subduing the Tories on Queens County was now altered so that no Troops are to go from Connect<sup>t</sup> but Heard is to call on L<sup>t</sup> Stirling for 3 of his Companies, I sent the Dispatches to Col. Heard by Cap<sup>t</sup> Morris. Hooper read Two Letters from North Carolina informing of Commotions there between the Whigs and the Tories of the back Parts. Foreign Goods begin now to come in, I bought some Linnen from S<sup>t</sup> Eustatia at 4/  $\text{p}$

yard. A Report passed concern'g the proper Necessaries for Maxwells Battalion about to march to Canada who are to have the same Pay, 50/ 7<sup>p</sup> Month for the Privates, as the Northern Forces, to commence from the Time they set off. the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims reported some Acco<sup>ts</sup> and among them Commissary Lowreys.

*Thursday 11 Jan<sup>r</sup>* The Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims settled the Acco<sup>ts</sup> of the Commissioners of the Northern Department of Indians, the whole Expence of the late Treaty at Albany was about £3300. In Congress a Recommendation was directed to the New York Convention to release by Exchange Lieut. Tyler of Connecticut now a Prisoner on Board of the Asia. A Com<sup>ee</sup> was appointed to give proper Instructions to the Officers on the recruiting Service A Report from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on Paper Currency was ably argued for 4 Hours, the Report recommended that the present 6 Millions of Dollars be called in and large Notes issued to that Amount bearing Interest, with sundry other Particulars, but a Proposition of Duane's took Place implying that all who refuse to take the Continental Curr<sup>y</sup> shall be treated as Enemies to their Country, a subsequent Resolution was voted out importing that the several Assemblies, Conventions and Committees of Safety shall take Care to put this Resolve in Execution A Letter from Owen Jones Provincial Treasurer here to a County Treasurer was read desiring as little Congress Money might be sent to him as possible for that he could not change it into Province Bills and a Letter from another Person fearing a Depreciation. Something was said about preventing Counterfeits.

*Friday 12.* the Minutes read. the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims made some Reports of Accounts. M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Livingston made a Report on the Mode of maintaining the Captive Officers at Trenton which being amended was passed, they are to pay their own Expences, to be removed to some other Place and be allowed 15/ 7<sup>p</sup> Week which they are to repay already having had Leave to draw Bills of Exchange for their Subsistance. In Grand Com<sup>ee</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Ward in the Chair, the Point was Whether to open Trade to Foreign Countries on the First of March next, wherein much Ability was displayed for several Hours and at last it was postponed for a Week, then the Com<sup>ee</sup> went on the Affair of allowing the Sale of what Tea is on Hand which was strongly advocated by M<sup>r</sup> Kean and others and as strongly opposed by D<sup>r</sup> Franklin, Lynch &c and the result Delayed till Tomorrow.

*Saturday 13 Jan<sup>r</sup>* the Votes read and Letters from Gen Wash<sup>n</sup>, Governor Trumbull and others. An Application from Connect<sup>t</sup> for more Money was objected to because no Accounts have been exhibited and the Motion was withdrawn. Some Amend<sup>ts</sup> proposed by Duane to the Resolutions of Thursday concerning the Credit of the Continental Bills, were lost on a Vote. Several Petitions were presented desiring a new Arrangement of some Officers in Bulls Battalion and that Morgan may be preferred to the first Lieutenancy, this last was agreed to but the other discountenanced. Debates Whether Bernard Romans shall be called in and examined about his Fortifications on Hudsons River were terminated in a Reference to 5 Members.

*Monday 15.* Letters from Washington, Montgomery, Arnold and others. 3 Letters from L<sup>d</sup> Stirling enclosing Letters between Gov<sup>r</sup> Franklin and Lieut. Col. Winds, they were on the Point of removing the Gov<sup>r</sup> to genteel Lodgings at Eliz<sup>a</sup> Town till the Pleasure of Congress is known, this Business was referred to W<sup>m</sup> Livingston and 4 others, and a Com<sup>ee</sup> of 3 appointed on Wash<sup>ns</sup> Letters then the House went into Grand Com<sup>ee</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Ward in the Chair, on the Permission to sell and use what Tea is in the Country, it was battled for divers Hours with much Heat and much Oratory and at length it was carried ag<sup>t</sup> granting any Permission by 7 Colonies to 4. (however the Advocates for this Measure carried their point in March or April following). A Paragraph of a Letter from Peter Timothy was read whereby it appears that any Two of the S. Carolina Gent<sup>l</sup> are constituted a Quorum. A Com<sup>ee</sup> was appointed of which Wisner was Head, to provide for Casting Cannon for the Land and Sea Service. I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Kinsey this Even<sup>g</sup>, inclosing Copies of Gov<sup>r</sup> Franklins and Cortland Skinners intercepted Letters. it was recommended to the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Safety of Penns<sup>a</sup> to discharge such Privates as they pleased that were lately cast away on Board of the Transport at Egg Harbor. In the Morning the Com<sup>ee</sup> of Claims settled several Acco<sup>ts</sup> as Hiltzheimers for Expresses and others, Expences run very high.

*Tuesday 16. January.* Mess<sup>rs</sup> Walcott and Huntington from Connecticut took their Seats. A Report passed from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on Gen. Wash<sup>ns</sup> Letters, to allow the Paymaster at Cambridge to draw upon the Continental Treasurers for any Sum not exceeding a Months Pay of that Army, to allow Him to reinlist the free Negroes, to continue Col Gridley as Chief Engineer, to appoint a Chaplain to every 2 Battalions and the Pay of such Chaplain fixed at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  Dollars  $\text{per}$  Month &c A Tender was asked for and allowed our Naval Armament under Admiral Hopkins. Duane and E. Rutledge were desired to rectify a Mistake in the Journals now printing, as to the Date of the Bills of Credit. The Report was made from the Com<sup>ee</sup> on the Number of Troops necessary, they recommend 4 new Battalions to be raised in New York and one in N Carolina, the latter was confirmed and a day named to consider the former. considerable Arguments on the Point Whether a Day shall be fixed for considering the Instrument of Confederation formerly brought in by a Com<sup>ee</sup> it was carried in the Negative, D<sup>r</sup> Franklin exerted Himself in Favor of the Confederation as did Hooper, Dickinson and other ag<sup>t</sup> it. Two Applications from French or other Foreigners for Employ in our Service, were referred to the Com<sup>ee</sup> for nominating fit persons for Officers. a French Vessel just arrived here with Powder. it is reported that they are fitting out 4 or 5 Privateers or other Vessels of War in So. Carolina and their Agent is now in this City on his Way to New England to engage 500 Seamen he is empowered to offer such high Terms that the S. Carolina Delegates acquainted Congress with it least it should prejudice our Service and a Com<sup>ee</sup> was chosen to consider the Matter. A Vessel is about to sail from Philad<sup>a</sup> with Produce for Bermudas to procure Powder and if it belongs to the King to seize it

by Force, if there is none there She is to go to New Orleans, Carthagenia or to a noted Port near Carthagenia or elsewhere and if She cannot get Ammunition the Captain is to obtain hard Money. the Secretary was desired to make out a List of all Committees and their Business and leave it on the Table Col Kirkland with his little Son is brought here and secured in Goal he was offered the Choice of having his Son with him or that the Boy should be put to Colledge, he chose the former. A Petition was presented from Benjamin Randolph of Chesnut Street praying Leave to raise a Troop of Light Horse for Continental Service, it was opposed by E. Rutledge and neglected or rejected.

*(To be continued.)*

## *2. The First Colonial Bishopric, 1786.*

[For the following document the readers of the REVIEW are indebted to Hubert Hall, Esq., F.S.A., of the Public Record Office, Director and Hon. Secretary of the Royal Historical Society. For the subject-matter of the document, see also Dr. Brymner's *Report on the Canadian Archives*, 1894, pp. 405, 407, 443, 445, 447-449. The See thus established was the first colonial bishopric of the Anglican Church. — ED.]

The following original Petition of the Anglican primate and the Bishop of London (to whose see the colonies were relegated) contains many allusions to a state of the Church in North America which was sufficiently notorious in its own day. The document itself is undated, but we may with some confidence assign its date to the year 1786 on the following grounds:—

In the first place, the signatures of the bishops prove that the date must lie between the years 1783 and 1787, since John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury, was elected in April, 1783, and Robert Lowth, Bishop of London, died in November, 1787. So much, at least, is certain. It might, indeed, be thought that the tone of the Petition would indicate a date previous to the concessions made by the Anglican bishops to the Episcopal Church in the United States, but it is more convenient to suppose that the concessions in question were a further inducement to the erection of an Anglican bishopric in British North America. There was no necessity to refer to the existence of a neighboring Episcopal Church in the United States, since it was perfectly understood that ordination at the hands of its bishops was even more improper than that which the American clergy once sought from the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and in this sense the American